IN THE CLAIMS:

Listing of claims:

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) A head suspension assembly as in claim 7, ~~1,~~ wherein the suspension arm and the membrane are formed from materials having different compositions.

3. (original) A head suspension assembly as in claim 2, wherein the suspension arm is formed from silicon.

4. (original) A head suspension assembly as in claim 2, wherein the membrane is formed from a material including carbon.

5. (currently amended) A head suspension assembly as in claim 7, ~~1,~~ wherein the membrane comprises a glassy carbon material.

6. (currently amended) A head suspension assembly as in claim 7, ~~1,~~ wherein the suspension arm is formed from a silicon wafer and the membrane comprises a glassy carbon material.

7. (currently amended) A head suspension assembly ~~as in claim 1,~~ comprising:

a suspension arm having a trench formed therein; and

a membrane positioned on the suspension arm and adapted to support a slider thereon, wherein at least a portion of the membrane is positioned adjacent to the trench, and

~~further comprising~~ a slider positioned on the membrane over the trench.

8. (currently amended) A head suspension assembly ~~as in claim 1,~~ comprising:

a suspension arm having a trench formed therein; and

a membrane positioned on the suspension arm and adapted to support a slider thereon, wherein at least a portion of the membrane is positioned adjacent to the trench, and

wherein the membrane extends across the trench.

9. (currently amended) A head suspension assembly as in claim 7, ~~1,~~ wherein the membrane is formed from an electrically conductive material.

10. (original) A head suspension assembly as in claim 7, further comprising at least one wiring line electrically coupled to slider positioned on the membrane, wherein at least a portion of one wiring line is positioned so that the wiring line extends at least one of (a) into the suspension arm to a depth, and (b) on the surface of the suspension arm.

11-15. canceled

16. (currently amended) A disk drive for reading and writing disks, the disk drive including a head suspension assembly, the disk drive comprising:

at least one disk;

a rotatable hub for mounting the disk;

a read/write head adapted to read from and write to the disk;

a slider onto which the read/write head is provided; and

a suspension assembly adapted to support the slider, the suspension assembly including a ~~support~~ suspension arm defining a cavity, and a membrane positioned on the suspension ~~support~~ arm and adapted to support the slider thereon, wherein at least a portion of the membrane is configured to deflect into the cavity when a suitable force is applied to the read/write head. ~~, wherein at least a portion of the membrane is positioned adjacent the cavity.~~

17. (currently amended) A disk drive as in claim 16, wherein the membrane comprises a glassy carbon material and the suspension ~~support~~ arm comprises silicon.

18. (currently amended) A disk drive as in claim 16, wherein the ~~member~~ membrane extends over a portion of the cavity.

19. (new) A disk drive as in claim 16, wherein the membrane extends across the cavity.

20. (new) A head suspension assembly comprising:

a suspension arm having a cavity formed therein; and

a membrane positioned on the suspension arm and adapted to support a slider thereon, wherein at least a portion of the membrane is configured to deflect into the cavity when a suitable force is applied to the membrane.

21. (new) A head suspension assembly as in claim 20, wherein the suspension arm and the membrane are formed from materials having different compositions.

22. (new) A head suspension assembly as in claim 20, wherein the membrane comprises a glassy carbon material.

23. (new) A head suspension assembly as in claim 20, wherein the suspension arm is formed from silicon.

24. (new) A head suspension assembly as in claim 20, wherein the membrane extends across the cavity.

25. (new) A head suspension assembly as in claim 20, further comprising a slider positioned on the membrane.

26. (new) A head suspension assembly as in claim 8, wherein the suspension arm is formed from a silicon wafer and the membrane comprises a glassy carbon material.